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Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I ask the hon. Minister for Education and Local Self-Government, what made the Government alter the Government Order that was in existence on 27th September 1926 ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I explained yesterday, the Electrical Inspector reported to Government that it needed modification."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Did the Electrical Inspector make any specific charge against any electrical engineer appointed by the local bodies any, if so, whether the engineer concerned was given a chance to vindicate his position ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think he made any specific charge against anybody."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I ask whether it is the policy of Government to run down all the local bodies and the electrical engineers engaged by them on the mere statements made behind their back by the Government electrical inspector ? Is he to have so much power ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" These new undertakings of municipalities have to be carefully scrutinized before any sanction is given."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Government have received any complaint that their electrical adviser is using his power unjustly to help favourite contractors ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not aware of any such complaint."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I ask whether the Government are prepared to see that this officer is prevented from being an autocrat and dictator to Government as well as to local bodies ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I said yesterday, the question of the revision of the Government Order is under consideration."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether in the previous Government Order, they gave permission and also encouragement to local bodies to engage their own electrical engineers and at the same time trebled the fees of their electrical inspector ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Notice."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Was the increase in fees made at the instance of the electrical inspector or was it made by the Government themselves ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Notice."

Maintenance of roads in South Kanara.

*230 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased—

(i) to place before the House a statement showing the trunk, military or imperial roads in South Kanara and Malabar districts, such of them as have been taken over or have been always or for a long time been maintained by the Public Works Department of Government, and what provision was made for the maintenance of each of them in the years 1928–29 and 1929–30 ;

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(ii) to state—

(*a*) whether the District Board, South Kanara, has passed a resolution to ask Government to take over the maintenance of the Mangalore, Mercara and Charmadi roads;

(*b*) if so, on what grounds; and

(*c*) what action Government have taken on that request?

A.—(i) The following are the trunk roads in the districts named:—

(1) South Kanara	(*a*)	Mangalore-Mercara road.
	(*b*)	Mangalore-Mysore road.
(2) Malabar	(*a*)	Madras-Calicut Road.
	(*b*)	Gudalur-Calicut road.
	(*c*)	Gudalur-Vayitri-Calicut road.

None of these roads are classed as military or imperial roads.

The roads maintained by the Public Works Department are—

(1) Tellicherry-Coorg road.

(2) Calicut-Mysore Frontier road.

The Government have no information regarding the provision made for the maintenance of each of the above roads in the years 1928–29 and 1929–30.

(ii) In November 1925, the South Kanara District Board desired that the Mangalore-Mercara trunk road should be treated as an imperial road and taken over by Government and that the Charmadi ghat road (now known as the Mangalore-Mysore road) should be treated as a trunk road. Subsequently in July 1927, the District Board resolved to retain the Mangalore-Mercara road in its own hands and applied for larger maintenance grants for this road. It is not possible to consider the question of larger grants for this road alone. The Charmadi ghat road has been classified as a trunk road from 1928–29.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"With reference to clause (i) of this question, may I enquire whether one or two of these roads in Malabar have not been taken over by Government at the request of the local body?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I believe two roads have been taken over."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know what are the principles on which these roads are selected by Government as liable to be taken over by the Public Works Department?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The whole question is under consideration in connexion with the Report of the Road Development Committee."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether one of the considerations is the political complexion of the head of the local body concerned?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I do not think so."